CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method for use with differing incumbent metallic infrastructures, to minimize of ~~minimizing~~ the effects on the performance of a given RF radiating/receiving element due to its ~~use with differing~~ interactions with a proximate incumbent metallic infrastructures, comprising the step of placing a first metallic structure physically closer to a first RF radiating/receiving element than that ~~the~~ incumbent metallic infrastructure is.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said placed first metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and the first RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed from said material, thereby forming a first slot antenna.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, comprising the additional step of placing a second metallic structure physically closer to a second RF radiating/receiving element than the incumbent metallic infrastructure is, wherein said placed second metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and the second RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed from said material, thereby forming a second slot antenna.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said placing of first and second metallic structures is performed to effect cooperative RF performance of said first and second antennas.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the cooperative performance is achieved by locating said first and second antennas so that the dominant null of the RF radiating/receiving element of one antenna is mitigated by the RF radiating/receiving element of the other antenna.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the incumbent metallic infrastructure is that of a conventional resource-measuring meter.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the incumbent metallic infrastructure is that of a conventional resource-measuring meter.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said placing of a first metallic structure includes (a) the supporting of said first metallic structure with a supporter having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of said first RF radiating/receiving element and (b) the shaping of said supporter to maximize the amount of surface space for supporting said first metallic structure.

14. (previously presented) A method of retrofitting a conventional resource-measuring unit having incumbent metallic infrastructure, with RF telemetry functionality, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing RF functionality with a first RF radiating/receiving element; and

(b) placing a first metallic structure physically closer to said first RF radiating/receiving element than the incumbent metallic infrastructure is.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said placed first metallic structure is radiating/receiving material and said first RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed from said material, thereby forming a first slot antenna.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

(c) placing a second metallic structure physically closer to said second RF radiating/receiving element than the incumbent metallic infrastructure is.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said placed second metallic structure is radiating/receiving material and said second RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed from said material, thereby forming a second slot antenna.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said RF functionality activates one or the other of, or both, said first and second slot antennas.

19. (currently amended) An RF telemetry unit for use with differing incumbent metallic infrastructures, comprising:

~~(a) inoumbent metallic infrastructure;~~

(ab) a first RF radiating/receiving element; and

(bc) a first metallic structure placed physically closer to said first RF radiating/receiving element than a proximate ~~the~~ incumbent metallic infrastructure is.

20. (previously presented) The unit of claim 19, wherein said first metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said first RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed from said material, thereby forming a first slot antenna.

21. (previously presented) The unit of claim 20, further comprising:

(d) a second RF radiating/receiving element;

(e) a second metallic structure placed physically closer to said second RF radiating/receiving element than the incumbent metallic infrastructure is, wherein, wherein placed second metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said second RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed from said material, thereby forming a second slot antenna.

22. (previously presented) The unit of claim 21, wherein said first and second metallic structures are located to effect cooperative RF performance of said first and second

antennas.

23. (previously presented) The unit of claim 22, wherein the cooperative performance is achieved by locating said first and second antennas so that the dominant null of the radiating/receiving element of one antenna is mitigated by the radiating/receiving element of the other antenna.

24. (previously presented) The unit of claims 19-23, wherein the incumbent metallic infrastructure is that of a conventional resource-measuring meter.

25. (previously presented) The unit of claim 20, wherein the meter has a cover and said first antenna is located under said cover.

26. (previously presented) The unit of claims 19-25, wherein the first metallic structure includes a supporter therefor, having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of the radiating/receiving element, and the supporter is shaped to maximize the amount of surface space available for supporting said first metallic structure.